

Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 2 - Acts 27:4-8 – July 25th, 2010

- This is part two of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we continue to uncover the secrets of Paul's success.
- I'm always careful when I use the word success because the world has hijacked it and both perverted and distorted it as well.
- Paul's life as a successful Christian life and I believe the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to include these details for us to learn these secrets.

1. Purpose (Verse 1)

- Though Paul could've been set free, he's still a prisoner going to Rome because this was according to God's plan and purpose for Paul.

2. Trustworthiness (Verses 2-3)

- Paul is allowed to have Luke and Aristarchus board the ship with him, and he's entrusted with the freedom to go to his friends at Sidon.

3. Perseverance (Verses 4-5)

4 From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. 5 When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

- v4 As they set out again, they have to change their direction by passing to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against them.
- v5 We're told that after sailing across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, they finally land at Myra which is in Lycia.
- This is one of those places where you sort of have to wonder why the Holy Spirit would have Luke record the detail of what happened.
- In other words, why do we need to know that the ship was redirected in a different route because of the winds that were against them?
- I believe that it's because the Holy Spirit wants us to know that Paul's perseverance came packaged with both patience and flexibility.
- Here's the question we need to ask; "how upset do we get when "the winds are against us," and we have to take a different route?

James 1:2-8 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV

Romans 5:1-5 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

2 Peter 1:5-9 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. NIV

4. Endurance (Verses 6-8)

6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. 7 We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. 8 We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

- v6 Luke tells us that the centurion had found an Alexandrian ship that was on its way to Italy, and has all the prisoners put on board.
- v7 They made "slow" headway for "many days" and had "difficulty" because the wind "didn't allow," them to stay on course once again.
- v8 They then had to move along the coast with "difficulty" before finally coming to a place that is called; "Fair Havens" near Lasea.
- Notice Luke's description; "slow, many days, difficulty, thrown off course." Certainly, they must be completely out of the will of the Lord!
- Actually, they are right smack in the will of God even though they are right smack in the middle of what will turn out to be a hurricane.

- Perhaps you're wondering if there's actually any difference between perseverance and endurance. There is, but they go hand in hand.
- Let me explain; endurance is to remain steadfast in the difficulty, and perseverance is to continue pressing on through the difficulty.
- Maybe another way to say it is that endurance will "weather the storm," so that perseverance is then able to survive, "despite the storm."

2 Timothy 2:3-7 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-he wants to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. NIV

Acts 14:22 We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. NIV